

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 VIENTI 01940 090618Z

11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 PM-07 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20

RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 PRS-01

DRC-01 /113 W

----- 046186

R 090354Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TP RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7996

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

USSAG

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 1940

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: DELAY IN FORMATION OF COALITION GOVERNMENT

REFERENCE: VIENTIANE 1929

1. AT HIS FIRST APPEARANCE SINCE HIS BOUT WITH A COLD, PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA VENTED HIS FRUSTRATION AND ANNOYANCE WITH THE PRESENT HIATUS IN PROGRESS TOWARD THE FORMATION OF A COALITION GOVERNMENT.

2. SOUVANNA, WHO HAS A BAD COUGH AND SAID HE HAD NOT SOMKED A CIGAR FOR A WEEK, TOLD ME THAT HE WAS TIRED AND DEPRESSED. HE SAID HE HAD NOT LEFT LAOS IN OVER TWO YEARS AND NEEDS A VACATION. MAYBE THE THING TO DO WOULD BE TO TAKE A MONTH OR TWO OFF. HE HAD BEEN FORTH-COMING AND REASONABLE BUT THE OTHER SIDE WAS TRUCULENT AND STUBBORN. HE COULD PLAY THAT GAME TOO AND LET THE COUNTRY STEW IN ITS OWN JUICE FOR A WHILE. EVERYONE MIGHT BE A BIT MORE SENSIBLE AFTER A COOLING OFF PERIOD.

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PAGE 02 VIENTI 01940 090618Z

3. THREATS TO LEAVE THE POLITICAL ARENA ARE PART OF SOU-
VANNA'S TOCK IN TRADE AND HE IS OBVIOUSLY CROSS AND
TIRED. HIS POOR STATE OF HEALTH DID NOT KEEP HIM FROM
PLAYING CARDS UNTIL 0200 AND I DON'T THINK HE IS
PACKING FOR THE RIVIERA YET.
WHITEHOUSE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, HEALTH, COALITION GOVERNMENT, GOVERNMENT REFORM, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, R & R
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974VIENTI01940
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740355/aaaabzav.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: VIENTIANE 1929
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DELAY IN FORMATION OF COALITION GOVERNMENT
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, LA, US, (SOUVANNA PHOUMA)
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005